GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5729
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VACCINE FOR TB AND MALARIA
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any external assistance for supporting the efforts taken in the development of vaccines for tuberculosis and Malaria in the country during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a): As per information received, so external assistance has been received fro the development of TB vaccine in the country during the last three years.

As far as development of malaria vaccine is concerned, the field sites are being developed at two field units of NIMR in Orissa and Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh for future vaccine trials. For Orissa, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has provided funds and vaccine is being developed at International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biology (ICGEB), Delhi. ICMR has funded the studies at Jabalpur and CDC Atlanta, USA is developing the vaccine.

(b): Orissa: This is a collaborative project with International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi, being funded by the Department of Biotechnology. The studies are being carried out to understand the epidemiology of malaria in Sundargarh district, Orissa which will facilitate the future field trails for malaria vaccines through collection of clinical, entomological and molecular epidemiological/immunological indicators from the study site. The project was initiated during August, 2000 and was initially up to July, 2002 but has been extended for the tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007). Logitudinal and cross-sectional epidemiological studies are being continued in two sets of villages in forest and plain areas characterized by hyper-and meso-endemic malaria situations respectively. Initially there were 13 study villages with a total population of 4,473. During 2003, the study population was increased to 15,525 with the addition of 23 villages. The proposed peptide vaccine is a recombinant vaccine against blood stages of P.falciparum.

Jabalpur: Study was initiated in May, 2005 keeping target to cover a population size of 32,700 residing in 58 villages. A community cohort study on pregnant women, newborn infants and children is being carried out along with hospital-based surveillance of all age groups. This study is mainly focused on to develop a well-characterized site, where the epidemiology of the disease, immune responses, parasite genetic diversity and vector characteristics are well understood for future malaria vaccine trial. The proposed vaccine is peptide-based multistage molecule.